

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 receiving a television stream;
3 causing the display of a first program of a first channel received in the
4 television stream for viewing by a viewer; and
5 notifying the viewer of an event occurring in a second program of a
6 second channel being broadcast concurrently with the first program.
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- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the television stream comprises an
2 enhanced television stream.
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- 1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving an event
2 notification within the enhanced television stream, the event notification
3 indicating occurrence of the event.
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- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the enhanced television stream
2 comprises a digital television stream and the event notification comprises an
3 ATVEF trigger.
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- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an event
2 notification indicating occurrence of the event, the event notification comprising
3 an ATVEF trigger communicated over the Internet.
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- 1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically causing the
2 changing of the channel after the event occurs to display the second program of
3 the second channel instead of the first program.
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1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising concurrently causing the
2 display of the first program on a first portion of a display and the second program
3 on a second portion of the display.
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1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying portions of
2 programs as signifying events.
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1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising registering for notification of
2 events.
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1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising receiving a plurality of
2 event notifications, filtering the event notifications to identify those event
3 notifications corresponding to registered events, and notifying the viewer of
4 occurrences of registered events for which event notifications have been
5 received.
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1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein registered events occur in programs
2 broadcast on a plurality of channels.
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1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the second program is broadcast live
2 and the event is determined in real-time.
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1 13. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine
2 readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a
3 processor, the instructions provide for handling of event notifications in television
4 programming, the instructions including receiving a television stream, cause the
5 display of a first program of a first channel received in the television stream for
6 viewing by a viewer, and notifying the viewer of an event occurring in a second
7 program of a second channel being broadcast concurrently with the first
8 program.
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1 14. The article of claim 13, wherein the television stream comprises an
2 enhanced television stream.

1 15. The article of claim 14, further comprising instructions for receiving an
2 event notification within the enhanced television stream, the event notification
3 indicating occurrence of the event.

1 16. The article of claim 15, wherein the enhanced television stream
2 comprises a digital television stream and the event notification comprises an
3 ATVEF trigger.

1 17. The article of claim 13, further comprising instructions for receiving an
2 event notification indicating occurrence of the event, the event notification
3 comprising an ATVEF trigger communicated over the Internet.

1 18. The article of claim 13, further comprising instructions for
2 automatically causing the changing of the channel after the event occurs to
3 cause the display of the second program of the second channel instead of the
4 first program.

1 19. The article of claim 13, further comprising instructions for concurrently
2 causing the display of the first program on a first portion of a display and the
3 second program on a second portion of the display.

1 20. The article of claim 13, further comprising instructions registering for
2 notification of events.

1 21. The article of claim 20, further comprising instructions for receiving a
2 plurality of event notifications, filtering the event notifications to identify those
3 event notifications corresponding to registered events, and notifying the viewer of

4 occurrences of registered events for which event notifications have been
5 received.

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1 22. A method of broadcasting enhanced television programs comprising:
2 defining events occurring in programs;
3 creating ATVEF triggers representing event notifications corresponding to
4 the events;
5 creating an enhanced television stream, the enhanced television stream
6 comprising television programs and the ATVEF triggers;
7 broadcasting the enhanced television stream.

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1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the enhanced television stream
2 comprises a digital television stream and the events occur in programs broadcast
3 on a plurality of channels.

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1 24. The method of claim 22, further comprising communicating the
2 ATVEF triggers to a receiver using the Internet.

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1 25. The method of claim 22, further comprising broadcasting event
2 definitions to receivers for registration of associated events by viewers.

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1 26. A method of receiving enhanced television programs comprising:
2 receiving definitions of events occurring in programs;
3 providing the event definitions to a viewer for selection of events of
4 interest;
5 receiving registrations for selected events of interest from the viewer;
6 receiving an enhanced television stream, the stream comprising television
7 programs and event notifications corresponding to events; and
8 comparing the received event notifications to the registered events and
9 notifying the viewer when a received event notification corresponds to a
10 registered event.

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1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the enhanced television stream
2 comprises a digital television stream and the events occur in programs broadcast
3 on a plurality of channels.

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1 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the enhanced television stream
2 comprises a digital television stream and ATVEF triggers represent the event
3 notifications.

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1 29. The method of claim 27, further comprising automatically causing the
2 changing of a currently tuned channel carrying a first program being viewed after
3 receiving an event notification corresponding to a registered event to display a
4 second program associated with the registered event instead of the first
5 program.

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1 30. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine
2 readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a
3 processor, the instructions provide for handling of event notifications in television
4 programming, the instructions including receiving definitions of events occurring
5 in programs, providing the event definitions to a viewer for selection of events of
6 interest, receiving registrations for selected events of interest from the viewer,
7 receiving an enhanced television stream, the stream comprising television
8 programs and event notifications corresponding to events, and comparing the
9 received event notifications to the registered events and alerting the viewer when
10 a received event notification corresponds to a registered event.

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1 31. The article of claim 30, wherein the enhanced television stream
2 comprises a digital television stream and the events occur in programs broadcast
3 on a plurality of channels.

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1 32. The article of claim 30, wherein the enhanced television stream
2 comprises a digital television stream and ATVEF triggers represent the event
3 notifications.
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1 33. The article of claim 30, further comprising instructions for
2 automatically causing the changing of a currently tuned channel carrying a first
3 program being viewed after receiving an event notification corresponding to a
4 registered event to display a second program associated with the registered
5 event instead of the first program.
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